

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed March 16, 2005. Claims 1-18 were pending in the application. Claims 1-18 stand rejected. For the reasons provided below, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,457,061 issued to Bal et al. ("*Bal*"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons stated below.

Independent Claim 1 recites the following limitations:

A method for routing an externally generated message in a network, comprising:

receiving at an ingress port of an internal network a message from an external network, the message comprising internet protocol (IP) source and destination addresses and message data;

translating the IP source and destination addresses to internal addresses that are non-forwardable in the external network, the IP source address translated into an internal loop back address reserved for the ingress port, the destination address translated into an internal loop back address reserved for a node within an internal network; and

routing the message data in the internal network based on the internal loop back addresses.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of anticipation, all the elements of the claimed invention must be found within a single prior art reference. *Dewey & Almy Chemical Co. v. Mimex*, 124 F.2d 986, 52 U.S.P.Q. 138 (2d Cir. 1942). In addition, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claims" and "[t]he elements must be arranged as required by the claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989); *In re Bond*, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990); M.P.E.P. § 2131 (*emphasis added*). Applicant respectfully submits that *Bal* does not disclose, teach, or suggest each and every element of independent Claim 1.

For example, *Bal* does not disclose, teach, or suggest “the IP source address translated into an internal loop back address reserved for the ingress port, the destination address translated into an internal loop back address reserved for a node within an internal network,” as recited in Applicant’s Claim 1. To the contrary, *Bal* merely discloses “a method and apparatus for performing network address translation . . . [that] operates by generating statistically unique port numbers for outgoing connections that pass through a network address translation device.” (Column 2, lines 22-26). “The statistically unique port numbers are formed from a subset of bits from the port number assigned by the source node.” (Column 2, lines 26-29). The *Bal* system applies where “a business may have its local area network with a large number of network nodes coupled to the Internet through an Internet Service Provider (ISP) that only provides a small number of legal Internet addresses.” (Column 3, lines 43-46). “To allow all the network nodes on the local area network to access the Internet, a network address translation device needs to be situated between the Internet and the local area.” (Column 3, lines 51-54). Thus, the *Bal* system is limited to a system for assigning unique port numbers to allow a large number of network nodes to address the Internet over a limited number of legal Internet addresses.

Specifically, *Bal* discloses that “workstations 142, 144, 146, and 148 each have internal addresses that have been assigned by the network administrator.” (Column 3, lines 61-63). “For example, all Internet Protocol (IP) addresses in the form of 10.X.Y.Z where X, Y, and Z are all between 0 and 255 are “Net 10” addresses that are defined to be IP addresses for internal use only.” (Column 3, lines 63-67). “[I]f an internal IP address has been assigned to internal server 141, then the network address translation device 130 must link an external IP address and external port with the internal server 141 such that the network address translation device 130 can perform network address translation to enable out [sic] Internet client to access the internal server 141.” (Column 4, lines 42-47). “[T]he network address translation module 231 maintains a TCP connection list 233” to keep track of these links. (Column 5, lines 21-26).

Bal discloses distinct network address translation operations for communications initiated internally and communications initiated externally. (Column 4, lines 18-24). For

example, if a communication is initiated internally, “network address translation 130 translates the internal IP address and internal port number used by the internal network into a legal external Internet IP address and an external port number used by the network address translation device 130.” (Column 4, lines 30-34). For communications from the external network responsive to communications initiated internally, “network address translation module 231 translates the external port number and external IP address into the internal port number and internal IP address of the internal network node that opened the connection.” (Column 5, lines 59-63). With respect to communications initiated externally, however, *Bal* merely discloses that an external IP address and external port is linked with the internal server. (Column 4, lines 42-48). In neither situation (communications initiated internally nor communications initiated externally), does *Bal* disclose, teach, or suggest, however, that “the IP source address translated into an internal loop back address reserved for the ingress port, the destination address translated into an internal loop back address reserved for a node within an internal network,” as recited in Applicant’s Claim 1. These features and operations are completely absent from the disclosure of *Bal*.

In paragraph 4(a) of the Final Office Action (p. 3), the Examiner argues that these limitations are disclosed at Column 5, lines 15-25 and 60-63 of *Bal*. However, as described above, these passages of *Bal* only disclose translating an external port number and external IP address (of a communication sent in response to a communication from an internal network node) into the internal port number and internal IP address of the internal network node. There is no disclosure of a translating an external IP address into a *loop back address*. By way of providing an example and without limitation, the present application identifies one type of loop back address as an address in the Internet Assigned Number Authority (IANA) reserved looped back address space (also referred to as the “127 loop back address space”). There is simply no disclosure of translation of an external address to this type of loop back address or any other type of loop back address. Furthermore, there is no disclosure of the specific limitation of Claim 1 requiring that “the IP source address translated into an internal loop back address reserved for the ingress port, the destination address translated into an internal loop back address reserved for a node within an internal network.”

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claim 1.

The Examiner also relies on *Bal* to reject independent Claims 7 and 13. Applicant respectfully submits that *Bal* does not disclose, teach, or suggest each and every element of Applicant's independent Claims 7 and 13. For example, Claims 7 and 13 each recite that "the IP source address translated into an internal loop back address reserved for the ingress port, the destination address translated into an internal loop back address reserved for a node within an internal network." Thus, for reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that *Bal* does not disclose, teach, or suggest each and every element set forth in Applicant's independent Claims 7 and 13.

Dependent Claims 3-6, 9-12, and 15-18 depend upon independent Claims 1, 7, and 13, respectively, which Applicant has shown above to be allowable. Accordingly, dependent Claims 3-6, 9-12, and 15-18 are not obvious over *Bal* at least because Claims 3-6, 9-12, and 15-18 include the limitations of their respective independent claims. Additionally, dependent Claims 3-6, 9-12, and 15-18 recite elements that further distinguish the art. For example, dependent Claims 6, 12, and 18 each recite that "the internal addresses comprise a loop back indicator, an identifier of a node in the network and an identifier of an element in the node." As discussed above with regard to Claim 1, *Bal* does not disclose translation into internal loop back addresses. Thus, for reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that *Bal* does not disclose, teach, or suggest each and every element set forth in Applicant's independent Claims 6, 12, and 18. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 3-6, 9-12, and 15-18.

CONCLUSION

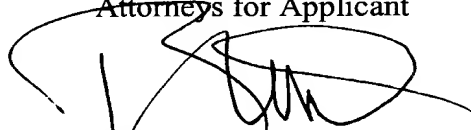
Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Brian W. Oaks, Attorney for Applicant, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953.6986.

No fee is believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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